

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLMACK:CFE

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS STATE 280439

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, TS

SUBJECT: HOLIDAY MESSAGE

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

1. THE YEAR WHICH IS ABOUT TO END HAS BEEN A VERY FULL ONE FOR THE NEA BUREAU AND, I KNOW, FOR THE MISSION IN TUNIS AS WELL. MY ONE VISIT TO TUNIS, WITH THE SECRETARY IN NOVEMBER, WAS FAR TOO HURRIED TO SATISFY MY OWN WISHES AND I HOPE TO COME TO TUNIS NEXT YEAR IN MORE RELAXED CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. SINCE TUNISIA CAME INTO THE NEA AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY IN JUNE, I HAVE BECOME MORE AWARE OF THE GOOD WORK WHICH YOU AND YOUR STAFF ARE DOING TO MAINTAIN AND BROADEN FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN TUNISIA AND THE UNITED STATES. THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IN NOVEMBER WAS THE OCCASION FOR A SUPERB AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL EFFORT ON EXCEPTIONALLY SHORT NOTICE. THE RECENT HIJACKING WAS ANOTHER SUCH TEST, AND THE EMBASSY'S PERFORMANCE FULLY JUSTIFIED OUR CONFIDENCE. ON A MORE SUSTAINED BASIS, I APPRECIATED THE HIGH QUALITY OF THE MISSION'S DAILY EFFORT TO INFORM WASHINGTON OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS AND TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

3. AS WE ENTER THE HOLIDAY SEASON, YOU AND JOAN HAVE
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MY BEST PERSONAL WISHES. PROFESSIONALLY, I FEEL CLOSE NOT

ONLY TO YOU BUT TO THE ENTIRE MISSION STAFF WHICH YOU
HEAD. PLEASE EXTEND TO THEM MY SINCERE THANKS FOR THEIR
EFFORTS OVER THE PAST YEAR AND MY BEST WISHES FOR THE
YEAR AHEAD. KISSINGER

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